REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

IT'S GRANT SEASON!!!

APPLY AT LEFONLINE.ORG/GRANTS

Patti Florian Student Enrichment
Apply NOW – March 12
Lakeshore Students

Foundation Project
Apply NOW – January 31
Lakeshore Staff
Over $2500 Proposal

Staff Support
Apply NOW – January 31
Lakeshore Staff
Up to $2500 Proposal

Professional Development
Apply NOW – January 31
Lakeshore Staff
Opportunities to grow!

READ MORE PAGE 2.

Making a difference ... one child at a time
Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event
Date August 5, 2024
Pay to the order of Lakeshore Education Foundation
$ 350,000
Three Hundred Fifty Thousand 00/100 Dollars
Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event & Whirlpool Corporation's Partner Companies
for 2024 WCCGE
Non-Negotiable
20041768 0654988 338265 0056

Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Outing Raises Millions for the Community

READ MORE PAGE 3.

trustees

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) Board is made up entirely of dedicated volunteers! Their time and expertise help create exceptional opportunities for Lakeshore students and teachers. Thank you, LEF Board, for all you do!

JC Anderson
Leslie Arbanas
Ryan Arnt
Meghan Bacin
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Kelly Bushu
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
Tim Dyer
Greg Eding
Andrew Glisson
Janine Harrison
Lori Hellenga
Rebecca Hirschboeck
Alaina Kinney
Lori Marciniak
Sterling Massey
Elizabeth Meeth
Phil Molloy
Julia Pechtel
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Lewis Scott
Matt Swab

Think You Have a
Great Idea!
Apply for a Grant!

Patti Florian Student Enrichment

- Meant for Lakeshore students - Kindergarten through High School

Staff Support

- Lakeshore Staff proposals that cost up to $2500

Foundation Project

- Lakeshore staff proposals that cost more than $2500.

Professional Development

- Opportunities for Lakeshore staff to develop their professional skills and talents

LEFONLINE.ORG

THE LEF GRANT WINDOW IS OPEN

Do you have a brilliant idea that could enhance the experience at our schools? We want to hear from you! Whether you're a student, teacher, or staff member, your innovative ideas can make a big impact. The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is currently accepting applications for four types of grants.

You can apply for a Foundation Project Grant, Staff Support Grant, and Professional Development Grant now through January 31. We will continue to accept Patti Florian Student Enrichment Grant applications until March 12. To learn more about each of the grants or to apply, visit lefonline.org/grants.

Submit your proposal and help shape the future of Lakeshore Public Schools. Let's work together to inspire excellence!

We are looking for the next Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2025!

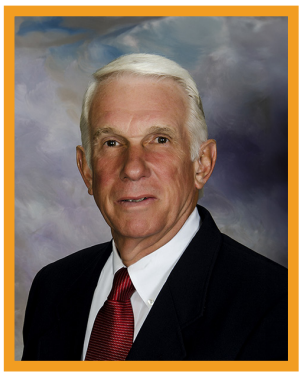
The Lakeshore Alumni Association and LEF welcome nominations from anyone who knows a deserving candidate.

The selection committee, which includes alumni, a current staff member, and a former principal, will consider nominees for up to three years—so feel free to re-nominate, if needed.

Nominations are due December 15.

Submit a form today and be part of celebrating the next Distinguished Alum! Nominate your choice at: lefonline.org/alumni/nominate-distinguished-alumni/ or scan the QR code above.

$350,000
OUR LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTION



J.C. Anderson, Chairman

The revenue sources for the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation are many and varied: grants, individual contributions, business contributions, our three fundraisers, teacher/staff contributions, and the Whirlpool golf outing, or, as more appropriately named, the ***Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event***. This event was initiated in 2002, and this past August, the 21st event took place. Being a Whirlpool retiree with 39 years of service, I must say, on the front end, that I am very proud of my former employer for conducting such an event that, in my words, is a true "give back" to the community where the company is headquartered. Jeff Fettig, the former Chairman and CEO, has been both the leading strategic and tactical thinker as this event has grown in size and community impact over the past 22 years.

Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event

Over the past 22 years, the Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event has raised over $34,000,000, which has been allocated within the community as follows:

- Expand and grow the local ***Boys & Girls Clubs***
- Expand and grow the local ***First Tee programs***
- Support the three ***local public schools*** (i.e. Benton Harbor, Lakeshore, St. Joseph)

As the event grew in size, the benefit to the community also grew, as the initial events and contributions went only to the Boys & Girls Clubs. Later, the First Tee became a recipient, and for the past 12 years, the three school foundations have also received significant contributions from the event. For example, the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, as did the St. Joseph and Benton Harbor foundations, received an initial contribution of $115,000 in 2013. This size of contribution enabled us to start thinking broader, deeper, and more strategically as an LEF Board with our Major Project selections.

LEF Received $350,000

Speaking of growth, our contribution from the event this year was a mind-boggling $350,000! Over the 12 years that Whirlpool has selected LEF as a recipient, we have received nearly $2,600,000 in total. We are truly fortunate to live in a community where a company demonstrates such leadership in giving back.

How is all of this money raised?

On a Sunday and Monday each August, approximately 800 individuals come together to play golf. This number of golfers requires six local courses: Chikaming Country Club, Dunes Club, Harbor Shores, HawksHead, Lost Dunes, and Point O' Woods.

The Whirlpool suppliers of components and services are the folks who receive the invitation each year to participate in this event. They understand that it is a charitable event for our local community, and their participation is great, as indicated by the number of golfers and the courses required. The suppliers "pay to play," or rather, donate to play, with various "opportunities" to contribute. For example, for $150,000, you can have one foursome play golf on Sunday and Monday, plus enjoy a private breakfast with the Whirlpool leadership. The entry-level donation is a $4,000 opportunity to sponsor a hole. Additionally, both a silent and live auction take place on Monday evening to augment the golf revenue.

Contributions Distributed

That brings us to Monday evening, when Lakeshore Superintendent Greg Eding and I are invited to attend the buffet dinner and receive the contribution to our foundation. The ***Boys & Girls Clubs*** receive their check first (this year, $1,000,000). Then, ***First Tee*** receives their check ($300,000 this year). Finally, the ***foundations*** are called up individually, and we receive our check ($350,000 each this year). By now, my pride in my employer is over the top, as approximately $2,400,000 has been awarded to the community.

Whirlpool certainly supports this event by encouraging its suppliers to participate and its executives to take part in the golf foursomes and dinner. In my opinion, the real heroes are the Whirlpool suppliers who, for 22 years now, have continued to donate substantially to play golf, knowing that this money will be effectively distributed within our community.

Sincerely,

J.C. Anderson

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

DEI - WHY THE CONFUSION?

Bill Scaletta, Lakeshore School Board Trustee

DEI or Diversity, Equity & Inclusion refers to the practice and policies intended to support people who come from varying backgrounds and give them the resources they need to thrive in the workplace. Simply put, DEI can strengthen organizations. According to members of the McKinsey Global Institute, "studies have shown time and again that Diversity through the lenses of race, ethnicity, ability, gender, sexual orientation, neurodiversity, and beyond strengthen organizations. Companies that are diverse, equitable, and inclusive are better able to respond to challenges, win top talent, and meet the needs of different customer bases."

As stated in a *Letter to the Editor* of MLive by Bob Johnson, "Let's set the record straight. DEI is not Affirmative Action and not lowering the bar or handing jobs based on race, gender, or any of the categories. It's about making sure everyone gets an equal shot to be seen, heard and considered - no matter where they come from, how they look or identify, or what physical or mental difference they may have."

Lakeshore Public Schools in April of 2021 made the following resolution on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Whereas Lakeshore Public Schools has, at the heart of its mission, a commitment to ensuring that Every Child - Every Day can achieve excellence through engaging, inspiring, and empowering education.

Whereas Lakeshore Public Schools recognizes that the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential not only to fulfilling this mission, but to creating a community-at-large where all people can live the ideals of a free and democratic society.

Whereas Lakeshore Public Schools acknowledges that while diversities exist among the students and families in our district, these diversities are not always sufficiently represented among the board, administration, or staff or the district.

Whereas Lakeshore Public Schools also acknowledges that processes, systems, policies, and environments in the district, while well intentioned, are not always designed in ways that create equitable outcomes for our students.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Lakeshore Public Schools is committed to fostering knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and practices that promote and habituate diversity, equity, and inclusion in every part of our district and the greater community.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lakeshore Public Schools' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion will be reelected at all levels of the district: in the organizational culture; in behavior and actions of the staff; in the actions and perspectives of the members of the Board of Education; and in the ways in which our processes, systems, policies, and environments are developed and delivered to reach and serve all students.

Adopted and approved the 19th day of April, 2021.

Submitted by,
Bill Scaletta, Lakeshore Board of Education Trustee

Rebecca Hirschboeck, Treasurer

Welcome, Rebecca Hirschboeck

Rebecca grew up in a suburb outside Chicago and fondly enjoyed spending her summers in Southwest Michigan. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.A. in French and Business Administration and from the University of Illinois at Chicago with an M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship and an M.S. in Accounting. Rebecca moved to the area in 2016 after accepting a treasury role at Whirlpool, and she is currently the Assistant Treasurer at Minneapolis-based Solventum Corporation, working remotely from home. She has three children in the Lakeshore School District, which fuels her desire to give back to the community and help the school district provide a best-in-class educational experience for all Lakeshore students and families. In her spare time, Rebecca loves to spend time with her family, enjoy the outdoors, and test out her amateur photography skills.

GRANT DOLLARS AT WORK
Stewart Elementary Highlights

Great things are happening across the school district thanks to your contributions to our mission! Our friends at Stewart Elementary recently shared this video that showcases just a few places where grant money has been spent to enhance the educational experience of Lakeshore Public School students.

Watch the video here: https://bit.ly/LEFStewart24

LANCER LUNCHES
Combating Food Insecurity for Lakeshore Students

The Lancer Lunches program kicked off for another year this fall, thanks to the continued financial support of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation and the amazing hard work of all the volunteers at Stevensville United Methodist Church. Beginning in April 2023, Lancer Lunches provides meals to Lakeshore students facing food insecurity. There is a strong correlation between adequate nutrition and educational success. As of October 2022, an average of 33.7% of our elementary students applied for free and reduced meals. This dedicated volunteer group at SUMC meets weekly to pack bags so students have something to eat each weekend. Thanks to your support, we are helping tackle food insecurity in our district. To learn more about the LEF's mission or to donate, visit: lefonline.org.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated volunteers at Stevensville United Methodist Church who help make the Lancer Lunches program a success. Thanks to their hard work and the continued support of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, students facing food insecurity have access to meals every weekend. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of Lakeshore students!

LAKESHORE ROBOTICS TEAM:
Fostering Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Essential Skills for the Future

As technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, the importance of preparing Lakeshore students for future careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) has never been clearer. One of the most dynamic and engaging ways to do this is through participation in Team Lance-A-Bot #4237, Lakeshore's robotics team. Our robotics team not only promotes technical skills but also embraces principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), making it an invaluable experience for students from all backgrounds.

Team Lance-A-Bot achieved the incredible milestone of making it to the World Championship in Houston this past spring, and none of it would have been possible without all of their hard work, dedication, and teamwork, which they exhibit through just a couple of these key factors:

1. Cultivating a Diverse Environment

Team Lance-A-Bot thrives on the diverse perspectives and skills that each member brings. When students from various backgrounds—culturally, academically, and socially—come together, they create a rich environment for innovation. This diversity fuels creativity, encouraging team members to approach problems from multiple angles. Robotics competitions require Team Lance-A-Bot to brainstorm solutions to complex challenges, and a diverse team is more likely to generate unique ideas. Team Lance-A-Bot actively recruits new members from various backgrounds, enhancing the overall team dynamic and leading to improved performance and innovative problem-solving.

2. Building Technical Skills for STEM Careers

Being a part of Team Lance-A-Bot provides students with hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology and engineering principles. Students learn about programming, electronics, mechanics, and teamwork—skills that are increasingly vital in today's job market. Through the design and construction of robots, team members gain practical knowledge that textbooks alone cannot provide.

Robotics introduces students to various programming languages and software tools, further solidifying their technical proficiency. As industries evolve, the demand for tech-savvy employees continues to grow. By engaging in robotics, students cultivate a skill set that not only enhances their academic profiles but also prepares them for future careers in a range of fields, from engineering and computer science to design and project management.

3. Developing Essential Soft Skills

Beyond technical abilities, Team Lance-A-Bot fosters a variety of soft skills that are crucial for career success. Collaboration is at the heart of any robotics project. Students learn to work effectively in teams, communicate their ideas clearly, and navigate conflict—skills that are transferable to any workplace.

Robotics challenges students to think critically and solve problems creatively. The iterative process of designing, testing, and refining a robot teaches resilience and adaptability, as the team must learn from failures and successes alike. These experiences build confidence and empower students to approach complex problems with a solutions-oriented mindset.

Continued NEXT PAGE

Continued Robotics ...

4. Encouraging Leadership and Mentorship

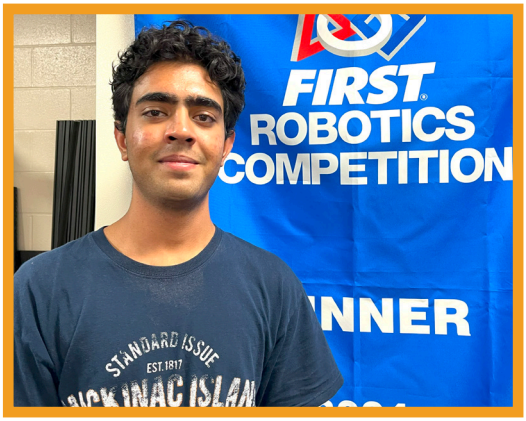
Participating in Team Lance-A-Bot often presents students with leadership opportunities, whether through leading a project, mentoring younger teammates, or organizing community outreach activities. These experiences not only enhance their leadership abilities but also cultivate a sense of responsibility and service.

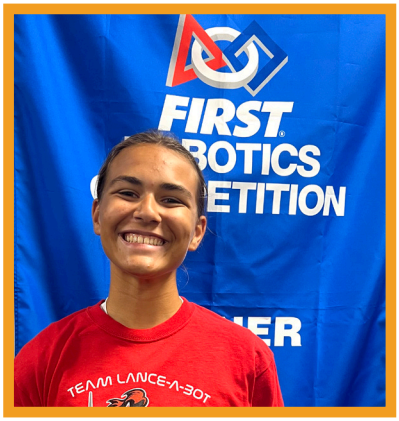
Mentorship within the team can have a profound impact, particularly for younger members or those who might feel intimidated by the technical aspects. By providing support and guidance, seasoned team members can inspire confidence and spark an interest in STEM, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose within the team.

5. Connecting with the Community and Industry

Team Lance-A-Bot heavily engages with our local Stevensville community and businesses, providing students with exposure to real-world applications of their skills. Partnerships with businesses, universities, and tech organizations can lead to internships, scholarships, and career opportunities. These connections also highlight the importance of community engagement and the role of STEM in addressing societal challenges, further inspiring students to pursue careers that make a difference.

Joining a robotics team offers students a multifaceted experience that extends beyond the classroom. By embracing principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion while developing critical STEM skills, students are not only preparing for future careers but also learning valuable life lessons in teamwork, leadership, and resilience. As they design and build robots, they're also constructing pathways to a more inclusive and innovative future—one where every student can thrive in the world of technology and beyond. As the team focuses on raising funds to support their year, LEF supports the robotics team through our Foundation Project Grant, providing $5,000 each year for three consecutive years. If you would like to learn more about Team Lance-A-Bot and how to support them in their upcoming season, please contact Brad Smith at bsmith@lpslancer.net.





"Robotics is not just a team. It is a community that branches out in all fields and professions." ~ Cole Miller, Lakeshore Student

"People from all backgrounds and different experiences can join robotics and make an impact on the team." ~ Caroline Nyce, Lakeshore Student

"Robotics teaches people problem solving skills, grit and social skills which helps create ambitious future leaders." ~ Kabir Parbhoo, Lakeshore Student

Team Lance-A-Bot #4237 equips Lakeshore students with essential STEM skills while fostering diversity and collaboration. Their recent success at the World Championship highlights the impact of teamwork and community engagement. Support Team Lance-A-Bot as they inspire the next generation of innovators!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Reach Higher Raffle! Your support helps fund programs that enrich Lakeshore Public Schools. Congratulations to our winners: Chris Latack, Gary Zick, and Paul Grams! Learn more about the programs we support at lefonline.org.

Back Row (left to right); Bob Melcher, Mick Ott, Janet (Ritchey) Snelgrove, Donna (Schmidt) Uphues, Art Brunke, Gerald Schlutt, Ray Kosarski. Front Row (left to right); Lonnie Groenke, Dorothy (Klug) Thar, Darlene (Roth) Damaske, Janice (Smith) Miller, Bob Dixon, Ron Gaynor

LAKESHORE CLASS OF 1959
CELEBRATES 65TH REUNION

The Lakeshore High School Class of 1959 recently celebrated its 65th Reunion with two days of activities. An evening get-together on the beach was followed by dinner the following day at Tosi's Restaurant in Stevensville. 13 members of the original class of 59 students, their families and friends, were in attendance. Donna (Schmidt) Uphues (Alaska) and Lonnie Groenke (Las Vegas) traveled the furthest to attend. Members of the class meet monthly for informal luncheons and dinners, and to plan for the next reunion. Classmates are always welcome.

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FOUNDATION

LEARN MORE ABOUT LEF

Visit our website: LEFonline.org
Follow us on Facebook @LakeshoreExcellence
Read our newsletter in the Lakeshore Light
Contact our Chairman, J.C. Anderson (anderjcna@gmail.com)